

**6 VACANT AND DERELICT LAND FUND 2005/06, PROJECTS AT BALDOVIE/HAREFIELD ROAD/RIVERSIDE DRIVE, ARBROATH ROAD AND RATTRAY STREET (AN75-2006)**

Reference is made to Article X of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 15th November 2004 regarding a programme for the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund (VDLF) for 2004/2005 and 2005/2006. It is reported that several acquisitions within this programme were not concluded in an appropriate timescale to be able to be funded from this programme and another project was behind schedule for reasons outside Council control. This is resulting in an under spend against this programme. Rather than not benefit from the grant available, three substitute projects that could be undertaken within the two month period remaining were now proposed. The Scottish Executive has agreed these were acceptable substitutes.

Baldovie/Harefield Road/Riverside Drive - this falls into two parts. First, at Baldovie Industrial Estate the ongoing work to create the recycling centre has a shortfall of £50,000. This site is on the Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Register. A contribution from the VDLF towards earthworks and access is proposed. Secondly, at the Harefield Road depot there is a soil heap, the removal of which will permit an extension of hard standing for parking. The soil will be graded and used to help with the capping layer required by SEPA at Riverside Drive which is on the SVDL register as vacant but managed.

Arbroath Road - the former tyre depot is derelict and on the SVDL register. This has planning consent for new housing. The developer had encountered unexpected difficulties with ground conditions and cannot reduce costs elsewhere without altering the quality of the development. It is proposed to make a grant of £50,000 to cover the cost of demolition and assist with subsoil works. This is on condition that the work is completed by the end of March 2006.

Ratray Street - a derelict former church building is in serious disrepair. This has been purchased by the Dundee Drugs and Aids project, jointly with the Dundee Cyrenians, to develop the Cairn Centre for vulnerable people. The employment and training programmes are to be provided in association with Dundee University. This has already attracted ERDF assistance and an application for Future Builders Funding is pending. The project fits the NEAT criteria. It has progressed to the point of committing to a contract, however, a modest gap still exists in the match funding package of £40,000. It is proposed that a grant from the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund is used. This would pay for fees and stripping out to enable the development work to follow in 2006/2007.

To enable the projects to be progressed in the required timescales it is reported that approval was given by the Director of Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Convener of the Planning and Transportation Committee and Spokesperson from the Majority and Minority Opposition Groups.

The Committee is asked to note the above.